

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Summary

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 9 have been revised.

Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indicated allowability of claims 2-5 and 9, and the indicated allowance of claims 10-13.

By this Amendment, claims 2 and 9 have been amended into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of the claim or claims from which they originally depended. Noting that claims 3-5 depend from claim 2, it is believed that all of claims 2-5 and 9-13 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. ¶102

Claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶102 or ¶103 as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,855, taken alone or in combination with Yu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,643,790). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants acknowledge that Lee et al. discloses a duty cycle correction circuit at reference 140 in Fig. 2 thereof, and that Yu et al. discloses a duty cycle correction circuit in Fig. 2A thereof. However, neither Lee et al. nor Yu et al. disclose “a control circuit that detects a process variation and controls respective slew rates of the first and second clock signals based on the detected process variation” as recited in original independent claim 1. Applicants thus respectfully contend that claim 1 defines over Lee et al., taken alone or in combination with Yu et al.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended herein to specify that the control circuit controls the respective slew

rates of the first and second clock signal by adjusting capacitive values of first and second input terminals receiving the first and second clock signals.

Support for this limitation can be found at FIG. 4 and paragraphs [0035] – [0042] of the present specification.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 1 and 6-8 define over the teachings of Lee et al. and Yu et al., individually or in combination.

Conclusion

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims 1-13 now pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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